

Commissioners
215 S. 4th St., Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840

February 23, 2009

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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Re: Florence-Carlton Foundation

Dear Commissioners:

Hello! I am writing to introduce you to a budding non-profit foundation which will benefit the Florence-Carlton School District. The mission of our foundation is to acquire funds to build a new (and the first) high performance school for the district, namely, a new high school.

As you are aware, the Florence-Carlton School District is home to the Florence-Carlton School - a K-12 institution employing a remarkable faculty and staff, and a solid administration that turns out an excellent student body year after year. Despite its small size, the school manages to achieve academic quality, and recognition for many of its programs and individual accomplishments. However, despite all of our school's positive attributes, there remains a very large number of problems with the Florence-Carlton School buildings. Our school is over capacity, which presents the greatest problem for both students and faculty. Following crowding as the lead concern, there are problems with plumbing, leaking roofs, poor ventilation, lack of security, health and safety concerns, handicap accessibility and more. Last spring, a survey was conducted by members of our group with the permission of Florence-Carlton School District Superintendent, John McGee, asking the teachers and classified staff to explain in their own words the problems they see with the buildings. A full, conclusive report followed. The overwhelming majority of staff, the Superintendent, and this group are all in agreement that a new high performance school is the best choice for our school.

High performance schools, you may be aware, are built to be sustainable, energy-efficient buildings that enhance the student learning and teaching environment, while saving the school district money in the long-run. Utilizing various forms of modern technology, "green schools" use alternative energy sources, natural daylight, and often offer "green" educational programs for students based on the technologies they have put into place. While many districts around the country have already converted their institutions into high performance schools, our district continues to lack adequate space,

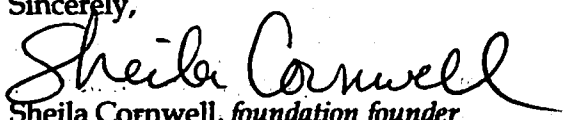
modern technology, and therefore many programs and other necessities which bring out the *full potential of both the faculty and students*.

Our greatest challenge and obstacle right now, unfortunately, is getting the support of the community. With rising costs of living and fear of higher taxes, times are tough, and the Florence-Carlton community is not ready for more bond or levy proposals, nor is it willing to put its faith in another "idea". To date, our group continues to gather information and resources in order to arm ourselves with a plan, before we announce our plan to the community.

As we introduce ourselves to you, our local leadership, we also invite you to share with us any information, thoughts, opinions, or ideas you may have regarding our endeavor. We appreciate the importance of making connections, and cooperation, and we look forward to future correspondence with our county commissioners.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact myself (see contact information on previous page), foundation co-founder, Brenda Dahl, or Superintendent John McGee. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,


Sheila Cornwell, *foundation founder*

Brenda Dahl, *co-founder*
273-2991 (home)

Florence-Carlton School District
Superintendent, John McGee
273-6751